

24-NS-6032 PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Stark et al.

Art Unit: 2857

Serial No.: 09/682,030

Examiner: J. West

Filed: July 11, 2001

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For:

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR

MANAGING INSPECTIONS

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313

The following comments are in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowability dated April 16, 2004.

Applicants believe that the Statement of Reasons for Allowance in this case is improper as it merely copies each limitation of the independent claim into the reasons for allowance.

While Applicants believe that the claims are allowable, Applicants do not acquiesce that patentability resides in each feature, exactly as expressed in the claims, nor that each feature is required for patentability.

Also, reasons for allowance are only warranted in instances in which the record of the prosecution as a whole does not make clear the Examiner's reasons for allowing a claim or claims (see 37 CFR §1.104(e)). In the present case, Applicants believe the record as a whole does make the reasons for allowance clear and therefore no statement by the Examiner is necessary or warranted. Furthermore, Applicants do not necessarily agree with each statement in

the reasons for allowance and do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's interpretation of the teachings of the cited art.

Respectfully submitted,

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